

Child Support in Michigan: Facts & Figures



County and state child support offices in Michigan provide services for about 955,500 children and their families. Anyone can request services from the child support program by completing an application.

All families who receive public assistance are required to cooperate with the child support program to establish and enforce their child support orders. The mission of the child support program is to achieve the well-being of children and self-sufficiency of families by delivering consistent, innovative- and holistic services that promote healthy relationships between parents and children and ensure parents fulfill their financial obligations to their children.

(Federal fiscal year 2014 data is used in this fact sheet unless otherwise indicated.)

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Paternity for children

- About 48,000 children are born outside of marriage in Michigan each year.
- 502,434 children born outside of marriage had a Michigan child support case.
- 93.7 percent of children in Michigan had paternity established.

Demographic information

- The Michigan child support program served 955,532 children in 954,698 child support cases.
 - Cases with children on current public assistance totaled 62,611.
 - Cases with children not on public assistance totaled 892,087.
- About 79.6 percent of Michigan child support cases had a child support order in place.

Collections for children

- The Michigan child support program collected and paid out \$1.34 billion in child support, with \$1.2 billion sent to families.
- Collections of child support paid in the month when due totaled \$984.1 million, which was 68.9 percent of the total current support that was due.
- The child support program collected an average of \$156 per child per month.

Child support debt

- Cumulative past-due child support, or arrears, owed as of Sept. 30, 2014, was about \$7.57 billion.
- About \$346.5 million was paid on child support debt. More than 60 percent of cases in arrears received an arrears payment during the year.
- The average debt owed in cases with child support debt was \$1,750.
- Parents in about 59.1 percent of child support cases owe some past due support.

Collections and enforcement methods

- **Income withholding.** A total of \$1.05 billion was collected by employers withholding child support from parents' paychecks.
- **New hire reporting.** Each month, employers reported an average of 194,006 newly hired staff. New hire reporting provides information for child support location and enforcement efforts.
- **Income tax refund intercepts.** Through income tax refund intercepts, \$79.5 million (6.7 percent of all collections) was collected. About 83 percent of intercepts were from federal returns; 17 percent were from state returns.
- **Financial Institution Data Match.** A total of \$6.75 million was collected by freezing or seizing financial assets.
- **License suspension.** About 5,000 parents had their driver's licenses suspended for failing to pay child support.
- **Other enforcement methods.** Parents who do not comply with child support orders may also be denied approval or renewal of their passport, reported to a credit bureau, subject to a civil contempt proceeding or charged with a felony.

To support Michigan children, a total of **\$1.34 billion** was collected.

Service delivery

- The Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES), Michigan's automated computer system, supports the work of 2,153 county and state workers in providing child support services.
- The Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU), Michigan's centralized collection and payment processor, receives and pays out approximately \$109.1 million each month.
- Approximately 59.4 percent of the collections paid out by the MiSDU are directly deposited into checking or savings accounts; 36.1 percent of collections are deposited on a U.S. Bank ReliaCard Visa debit card.
- Child Support specialists answer an average of 12,250 calls each month, obtaining information for case initiation and providing parents with information about child support.
- Parents access information about their child support case activities and payments, or connect with their case worker through the phone an average of 600,000 times per month.
- Parents access information about their child support case activities and payments through the MiChildSupport secure website, an average of 152,900 times per month: www.michigan.gov/MiChildSupport.
- Child support information for parents, employers, hospitals and schools is located on the MDHHS website: www.michigan.gov/ChildSupport. This includes brochures, a high school curriculum, guides, etc.

Program funding

- Child support expenditures totaled \$234.4 million. The federal government funded 57.4 percent, the state funded 20.2 percent and Michigan counties funded 22.2 percent.
- The federal government matches 66 percent of state and county spending. It also provides funding based on performance outcomes and a collection base, which is shared with Michigan counties. Michigan received approximately \$25.7 million for fiscal year 2013.
- For every \$1 spent on Michigan's child support program, \$6.26 was collected in support for Michigan's children.